



KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

MARCH – JUNE 2014

TELECHECK:
1-800-245-4263

Fish & Wildlife:

1-800-858-1549 • fw.ky.gov

Office hours: Monday - Friday
8 AM - 4:30 PM ET

Report Game Violations:

1-800-25-ALERT



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Commonwealth of Kentucky

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

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FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

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Rick Hill photo

Hunting on private land is a privilege.

Always get permission and thank the landowner.

Be a mentor. Pass on the heritage and traditions of hunting and fishing in Kentucky. Contact the department online at fw.ky.gov for more information.

NEW THIS YEAR

Changes from last season are printed in bright blue throughout this guide to assist you in noticing those changes.

LICENSES and PERMITS

Some license offerings and fees have changed. See pages 9 and 10.

COYOTES

Hunters can take coyotes after daylight hours. Lights or night vision equipment can only be used from Feb. 1-May 31. Lights cannot be connected to or cast from

a vehicle. Any color of light can be used.

Shotguns are the only legal firearm for night coyote hunting. A shell containing a single projectile may not be used.

Regulations prohibiting night hunting for coyotes on Kentucky lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service, including Department WMAs within the boundaries of these properties, were pending at the time this guide went to press. Please call 1-800-858-1549 or visit fw.ky.gov for the latest information.

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT of FISH and WILDLIFE RESOURCES

"To conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife-related activities."

WHO WE ARE

Created as the Kentucky Game and Fish Commission on March 12, 1912, the agency known today as the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources was established in its present form by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1944. An agency of the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet, the department today has about 500 full-time employees.

WHAT WE DO

Through the decades the department's role has expanded to include managing both game and non-game fish and wildlife resources, creating regulations, enforcing wildlife and boating laws, hatching, rearing and stocking fish, assisting landowners with fish and wildlife habitat improvement, educating youth about the importance of fish and wildlife and their habitats, stream restoration, passing on the heritage of archery and shooting sports, buying land for public use, and building boat ramps for an-

gler access to the state's public waterways.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission, a nine-member citizens board selected by licensed hunters, boaters and anglers, and appointed by the Governor, meets quarterly in Frankfort to make policy and regulatory decisions. With input from the agency's director, program administrators and staff biologists, the Commission adopts regulations that must meet with the approval of the Kentucky General Assembly.

OUR BUDGET

The department's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2013 was \$48.6 million.

Revenue sources are: hunting and fishing licenses (51%); boat registration fees (7%); federal program funds (34%); program income (3%); interest income, tax check-off donations, and other miscellaneous receipts (5%).

Budgeted expenditures are: capital projects and land acquisitions (4%), administration (11%), wildlife (28%), fisheries (18%), information and education (12%), and law enforcement (27%).

The department receives no tax dollars from the state's General Fund, and manages fish and wildlife for all citizens.



Dave Baker photo

March - June 2014



KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

Joe Lacefield photo

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a summary of hunting laws, intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced statute or regulation. Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR) can be viewed at www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/frntpage.htm

OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Informational guides are also produced for fishing and boating, fall hunting and trapping, waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting (dove, wood duck, teal, woodcock, snipe and crow). These guides are available free wherever licenses are sold and are posted online at fw.ky.gov.

KNOW THE LAW!

Please read this guide carefully to prevent being cited for a violation. Make sure you understand Kentucky's hunting and trapping laws before going afield. If you need help understanding a law call 1-800-858-1549, weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m Eastern time.

The top five most issued citations related to hunting and trapping are: 1) Hunting or trapping without a license 2) Hunting or trapping without landowner's permission 3) Illegal take of game 4) Taking more game than the bag limit, and 5) Failure to tag or check game.

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WILD TURKEY HUNTING

SPRING HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	Youth-Only	General Season
Turkey	April 5-6	April 12 - May 4

Shooting hours are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

FEEDING OF WILDLIFE

From March 1 through May 31, it is illegal to feed wildlife with grain, seed or manufactured animal feed outside the curtilage of the home (the area immediately surrounding a home or group of homes). This regulation does not apply to normal agricultural practices or food plots, or municipal areas not open to legal hunting or trapping.

PRE-SEASON CALLING

A person shall not mimic the sound

LEGAL EQUIPMENT

It is illegal for any person to take game with equipment that is contrary to the restrictions outlined in this guide. Hunters may only use the following to take turkeys during the spring seasons:

- Breech-loading or muzzle-loading shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than 20 gauge.
- Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than number 4.
- Longbows, recurve bows, and compound bows, of any draw weight (no minimum).
- Crossbows, of any draw weight (no minimum), with a working safety.
- Broadheads at least 7/8" wide, which aren't barbed, chemically-treated, or have attachments that contain chemicals.

of a turkey in an area open to hunting if turkeys are reasonably expected to be present from March 1 until the opening of the youth-only or general season. However, locating turkeys with an owl, crow, coyote, or woodpecker call is permitted when scouting.

SEASONS

Both the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons are open statewide. The two-day youth-only hunting weekend opens on the first Saturday in April. The general season opens on the Saturday closest to April 15 and lasts 23 days. A hunting license and spring tur-

PROHIBITED HUNTING METHODS

A person hunting wild turkeys shall not:

- Use a dog during the spring season.
- Hunt from a boat, or from any type of vehicle unless prescribed by regulation (see "Hunters with Physical Disabilities" on page 11).
- Take a roosting turkey (place where a turkey spends the night).
- Use or possess an electronic or digital calling device.
- Use live decoys.
- Hunt over bait. An area is considered baited until 30 days after the bait has been removed. An area where grain, feed or other substances exist as the result of bona fide agricultural practice or manipulating a crop for a wildlife management purpose is legal for turkey hunting.

key permit is required unless the hunter is license exempt. See page 7 for license and permit requirements.

YOUTH-ONLY SEASON

The youth-only hunting weekend is open to hunters 15 years of age or younger, but youth hunting licenses and permits are valid for the entire license year if they are purchased before the youth's 16th birthday. Youths who hunt turkeys at any time with a shotgun must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old. The adult must remain in position to take immediate control of the youth's shotgun at all times. Adults who accompany youth hunters during the youth-only season are not required to have a hunting license or turkey permit. All youth hunters must use their social security number when telechecking a turkey.

SPRING SEASON BAG LIMITS

A hunter may take a male turkey or a turkey with a visible beard. No more than one (1) bird may be taken per day. No more than two (2) birds may be taken per spring season. Any combination of male turkeys, or female turkeys with visible beards, may be included in this two-bird season limit. Turkeys taken by youth during the youth-only season count toward the spring turkey bag limit.

TELECHECK

All harvested turkeys must be logged and telechecked. See pages 11-12.

CALLER / ASSISTANT

Anyone may call turkeys, or assist in the hunt. Callers and assistants don't have to possess a hunting license or turkey permit, and may carry equipment while in the field.

HUNTER ORANGE

Hunters are not required to wear hunter orange clothing during the spring turkey seasons. However, wearing an article of hunter orange clothing when carrying a harvested turkey is a

simple and effective way to help prevent hunting accidents that can occur when a hunter is mistaken for game.

POSSESSION OF LIVE WILD TURKEYS and EGGS / RELEASE OF WILD TURKEYS

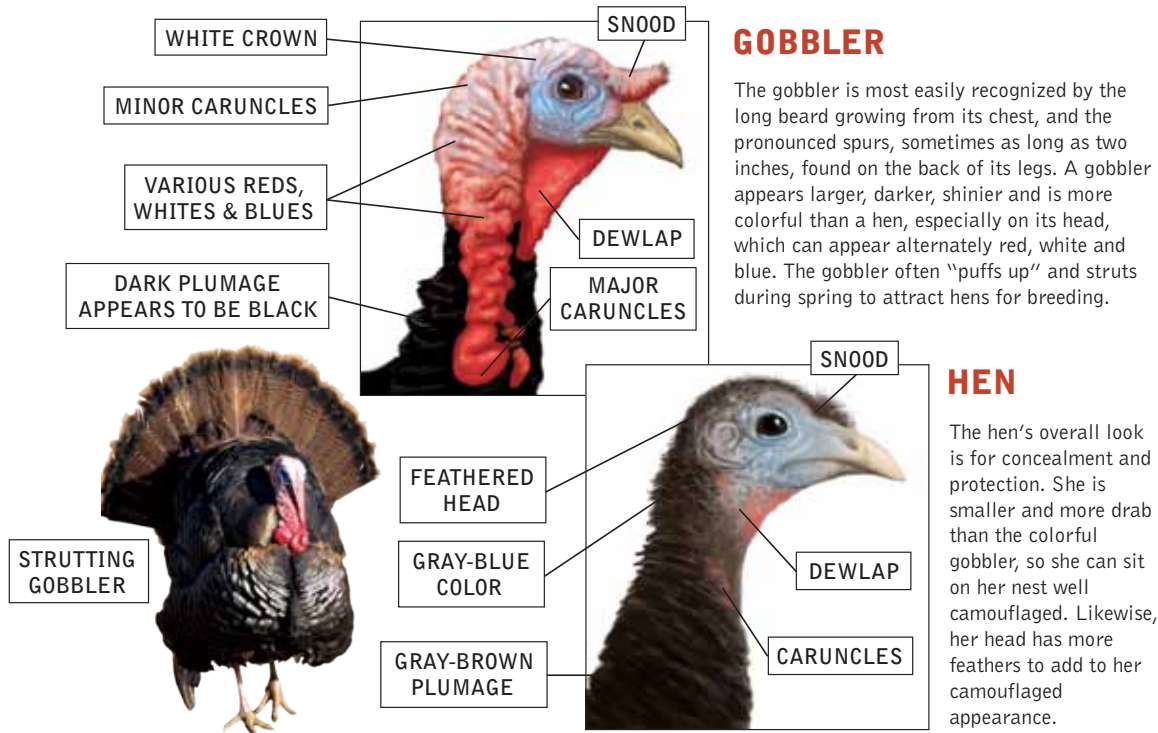
Due to the potential for spread of disease and genetic pollution, it is illegal

to possess live wild turkeys. For the same reasons, domestic or pen-raised turkeys should not be released into the wild. It is also illegal to possess or attempt to hatch wild turkey eggs. It is further recommended that turkeys not be artificially fed during any time of the year. Providing standing corn, wheat or clover patches is a much better alternative.

TAIL FANS, SPURS and BEARDS

Inedible parts from harvested wild turkeys, including tail fans, beards and spurs, may only be bought from or sold to licensed taxidermists. This includes online auctions and direct sales on websites. Wild turkey mounts may be sold if the seller registers the mount online at fw.ky.gov prior to selling.

GOBBLER / HEN IDENTIFICATION



Source: National Wild Turkey Federation (www.nwtf.org).

TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

- Don't stalk a turkey. The chances of getting close enough for a shot are slim, and odds of becoming involved in an accident increase.
- Eliminate the colors red, white and blue from your turkey hunting outfit. Red or white are the colors hunters are looking for when differentiating a gobbler's head from the hen's grayish-blue head. These colors not only put you in danger, but they can be seen by turkeys as well.
- Don't move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter to your presence. A quick movement may draw fire. Yell in a loud voice "Hey, I'm here," and remain hidden.
- Be particularly careful when using a gobbler call. The sound and motion may attract other hunters, and could draw fire.
- When selecting your calling position, sit at the base of a large tree, if one is available, to protect your torso and head. Position yourself so you can see 180 degrees in front of you.
- Never shoot at a sound or movement. Be 100 percent sure of your target. Assume that every sound you hear is made by another hunter.
- When hunting with a turkey decoy, place the decoy about 20 yards from your calling position. To be safe you need a clear line of sight beyond the decoy of at least 80 yards. This will enable you to see any approaching hunter and keep you at a safe distance if another hunter were to shoot at your decoy.
- Keep your shotgun unloaded when not in the field, and open the action or unload your shotgun when climbing a steep hill, stepping over low fence wire, or fording a creek.
- After bagging a turkey, put on an article of hunter orange while carrying the bird out of the field.

SQUIRREL HUNTING

SPRING HUNTING SEASON

SPECIES	Spring Season	Bag Limit
Squirrel	May 17 - June 20	Daily limit is 6 squirrels; possession limit is 12

Shooting hours are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

LEGAL EQUIPMENT

Hunters may only use the following equipment to take squirrels during the spring season:

- Rifles that shoot rimfire ammunition, or .22-caliber handguns.
- Muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotguns no larger than 10 gauge.

Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).

- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than number 2.
- Muzzle-loading rifles.
- Archery or crossbow equipment.
- Pellets fired from .177, .20, .22 or .25-caliber airguns.

- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.

PROHIBITED METHODS OF TAKING SQUIRRELS

- Trapping squirrels during the spring season, or hunting squirrels at any time with slingshots or blowguns is prohibited

COYOTES and OTHER WILDLIFE

HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	Seasons and Bag Limits
Coyote	Year-round (see below), no bag limit. Hunters can take coyotes after daylight hours, but lights or night vision equipment can only be used from Feb. 1 - May 31.
Groundhog	Year-round, no bag limit.
Wild Pig	Year-round, except Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area; no bag limit

Hunting license required, unless exempt. Shooting hours for groundhogs and wild pigs are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

COYOTES

Hunters can take coyotes after daylight hours. Lights or night vision equipment can only be used from Feb. 1 – May 31. Lights cannot be connected to or cast from a vehicle. Any color of light can be used.

Shotguns are the only legal firearm for night coyote hunting. A

shell containing a single projectile may not be used.

Regulations prohibiting night hunting for coyotes on Kentucky lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service, including Department WMAs within the boundaries of these properties, were pending

at the time this guide went to press. Please call 1-800-858-1549 or visit fw.ky.gov for the latest information.

Hand or mouth-operated calls and electronic calls that imitate wounded prey or coyote calls are legal.

It is legal to hunt coyotes over animal carcasses.

Coyotes may only be trapped

during furbearer trapping season.

GROUNDHOGS and WILD PIGS

Groundhogs may be trapped

LEGAL EQUIPMENT

Hunters may only use the following to take coyotes, wild pigs, groundhogs, and exotic species of wildlife:

- Muzzle-loading rifle, modern rifle, or handgun of any caliber, with no restriction on magazine capacity.
- Shotguns are the only legal firearm for night coyote hunting. A shell containing a single projectile may not be used.
- Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, shooting any size lead or non-toxic shot, including buckshot. Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in the magazine and one in the chamber).
- Archery and crossbow equipment.
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.

year-round.

Wild pigs may not be hunted from **March 1 – Sept. 5, 2014** on the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Hunters must have a permit from the National Park Service to hunt wild pigs on Big South Fork from Jan. 20 through Feb. 28, 2015.

It is illegal to possess, sell or transport wild pigs in Kentucky. Landowners are strongly encouraged to work with the department to remove wild pigs from their property. Trapping is the most effective method of removal. Tell your local conservation officer about the use of snares and/or corral traps on your property. Traps and snares should be tagged and checked in accordance with trapping regulations. Wild pigs must be killed at the trap site, and not released. To report sightings, illegal activities related to wild pigs, or to get advice on effective control, contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549.

OTHER WILDLIFE

BIRDS

- Some species of exotic, non-native birds (pheasant, chukar, and Eurasian

collared doves) may be hunted year-round, without a hunting license or bag limit.

- English sparrows and starlings may be hunted year-round, with no bag limit, but a hunting license is required, unless license exempt.
- However, pheasants released during quota hunts are not open to year-round hunting on Green River Lake WMA, Yellowbank WMA and Clay WMA.
- All birds of prey and native songbirds are protected under state and federal laws and may not be taken.

HOOFED STOCK (OTHER THAN WHITE-TAILED DEER and ELK)

- Exotic, non-native hoofed stock may be hunted year-round.
- No license required.
- No bag limit or checking requirement.
- Fallow deer on Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area are not open to year-round hunting.

MAMMALS and OTHER WILDLIFE

- The spotted skunk, a rare species found in eastern Kentucky, is a protected species and may not be taken.
- All threatened or endangered species are protected under state and federal laws and may not be taken.

PUBLIC LAND HUNTING

KENTUCKY FISH and WILDLIFE PROPERTIES

This page lists wildlife management areas (WMAs) where special regulations are in effect for the spring turkey and squirrel seasons. If you plan to hunt on any of these areas, make note of the differences from statewide regulations.

When hunting on WMAs respect the boundaries of adjoining private lands, be courteous, don't trespass, and keep safety in mind.

Horseback riding on WMAs is prohibited during firearms seasons for turkeys.

All department-owned or managed WMAs are open under statewide regu-

lations for the spring turkey and squirrel hunting seasons, with the following exceptions:

BARREN RIVER LAKE WMA 8,735 acres Barren and Allen counties

Hunters shall not hunt on the Peninsula Unit (including Narrows, Goose and Grass islands) with modern (breech-loading) firearms.

HIGGINSON-HENRY WMA 5,450 acres, Union County

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons, but turkey

hunters may only use archery gear and crossbows (with hunting methods exemption permit).

LIVINGSTON COUNTY WMA and STATE NATURAL AREA 1,898 acres, Livingston County

Open for the youth-only turkey season. Open to youth hunters only during the general spring turkey season. Open for spring squirrel season.

OTTER CREEK OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA 2,221 acres, Meade County

Hunting during the youth-only and

general turkey season ends at noon each day. Open for spring squirrel season, except hunters shall not use rifles, or ball or slug ammunition.

PEABODY WMA

45,732 acres, Ohio, Hopkins and Muhlenberg counties

A Peabody WMA user permit (\$15) is required for anyone 16 years of age and older entering the property for any recreational purpose.

PIONEER WEAPONS WMA **7,731 acres**

Bath and Menifee counties

Hunters shall not use modern (breech-loading) firearms, and in-line muzzleloading firearms. Hunters may only use open or iron sights on any weapon.

ROBINSON FOREST WMA

12,185 acres

Breathitt, Knott and Perry counties

The main block of this WMA is closed to all turkey and squirrel hunting.

WEST KENTUCKY WMA

6,562 acres, McCracken County

All tracts are open for the youth-only turkey season. All tracts except those marked with the letter "A" are open for the statewide turkey season. Call (270) 488-3223 for more information about the spring turkey season and spring squirrel season. Squirrel hunters shall not use rifles or ball or slug ammunition. Tract 6 is closed to vehicular traffic from Feb. 1 – April 16.

OTHER AREAS

The following lands are not owned or managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Hunting dates may differ from the statewide seasons. Advanced registration to hunt may be required. Contact the appropriate agency for details. Some areas require paper licenses and have more restrictive hunter education age requirements.

Seasons on military installations are subject to change based on training exercises and other activities. Some areas offer "bonus" birds that do not count against the statewide season bag limit, but hunters must possess a valid hunting license and turkey permit to participate. Active duty military may be license-exempt on some areas.

BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT

14,517 acres in Madison County

431 Battlefield Memorial Highway, Richmond, KY 40475; (859) 779-6651

Application period for spring turkey hunts is July of the previous year. Background check required if selected. Turkeys taken are bonus birds. All ages must have hunter education card. Temporary hunter education exemption permit not accepted.

CLARKS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

9,212 acres in Graves, Marshall and McCracken counties

91 U.S. 641 North, Benton, KY 42025; (270) 527-5770

Open under statewide regulations for spring squirrel and turkey seasons. Squirrel hunters who hunt with shot-

guns must use non-toxic shot. No bonus birds. Must use statewide turkey permit. Refuge user permit required.

FORT CAMPBELL MILITARY RESERVATION

36,113 of 104,625 acres in Kentucky

6645 101st Airborne Division Ave., Fort Campbell, KY 42223; (270) 798-2175

Post permit required. Turkeys taken are bonus birds. Call for dates. Kentucky hunters may hunt on both the Kentucky and Tennessee portions of the base. No spring squirrel hunting. All ages must have hunter education card. Temporary hunter education exemption permit not accepted. All shotguns and muzzleloaders used while hunting on Fort Campbell must be registered before hunters go afield. For more information visit www.fortcampbellmwr.com.

FORT KNOX MILITARY RESERVATION

109,000 acres in Bullitt, Meade and Hardin counties

Hunt Control Office, Wilson Road, Building 9297, Fort Knox, KY 40121; (502) 624-7311 or 624-2712

Post permit required. Turkeys taken

are bonus birds. Contact Ft. Knox for dates by calling (502) 624-7311, or visit their website at: www.knox.army.mil/fw

Spring squirrel hunting permitted. Ages 60 and under must have hunter education card, or hunter education exemption permit.

HIDDEN VALLEY TRAINING AREA **523 acres in Powell County**

Closed to all turkey hunting (including youth-only and general spring turkey season). Closed to spring squirrel season.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (LBL) NATIONAL RECREATION AREA **107,594 of 170,000 acres in Kentucky**

100 Van Morgan Dr., Golden Pond, KY 42211; (270) 924-2065

Area user permit required. Apply online (www.lbl.org) in February for spring quota turkey hunts. Non-quota turkey hunt also offered. Hunters shall take no more than one (1) turkey with a visible beard. No bonus birds. Must use statewide permit. Spring squirrel hunting permitted. Call LBL for dates.

REELFOOT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

2,043 of 10,428 acres in Fulton County, Kentucky

4343 Hwy. 157, Union City, TN 38261; (713) 538-9760

Quota turkey hunts early April by advance application. Hunters may not take more than one (1) turkey. No bonus birds. No spring squirrel hunting.

Maps and information

For maps and information on WMAs and other public hunting areas, go online to fw.ky.gov. Then click Maps and Wildlife Management Areas / Public Hunting Areas.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LICENSES and PERMITS

All turkey hunters, unless license exempt, are required to purchase and carry with them in the field proof of purchasing an annual Kentucky hunting license and spring turkey permit.

Short-term (1- or **7-day**) hunting licenses are not valid for turkey hunting.

License and permit fees are listed on page 10.

All squirrel hunters, unless license exempt, are required to possess a Kentucky hunting license.

Each hunter must have his or her own license or permit. Paper licenses and permits must be signed and filled out before going afield. Licenses, permits, and license authorization numbers are non-transferable.

Lose your license? Replacement licenses can be printed from the department's website fw.ky.gov at no cost.

RESIDENTS

A Kentucky resident is any person who has established permanent domicile and legal residence and has resided in Kentucky for 30 days prior to purchasing a license.

NONRESIDENTS

Those who do not meet the definition of a Kentucky resident are required to purchase nonresident licenses and permits. A nonresident who owns land in Kentucky must buy nonresident licenses and permits.

YOUTH

Persons under 12 years of age who hunt any species must be accompanied by an adult, if they have not passed a hunter education course. Both resident and nonresident hunters under the age

of 12 are license and permit exempt.

Once a hunter becomes 12 years old, he or she must be licensed, unless license exempt.

Persons 15 years of age and under who hunt turkeys with a firearm must be accompanied by an adult. A youth hunting license shall not be issued without the written permission of a parent or guardian, or person having custody of the youth hunter, who shall sign the youth hunter's license to signify consent.

Resident and nonresident hunters ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase discounted youth licenses and permits, valid for the entire license year, if purchased before the youth's 16th birthday. Once a hunter turns 16 years of age, he or she is no longer eligible to buy youth hunting licenses and permits, or participate in youth-only seasons.

RESIDENT SENIOR AND DISABLED LICENSES

The following are eligible to purchase the \$5 Senior/Disability License (which includes the same license and permits as the Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits):

- Kentucky residents 65 years of age or older.
- Kentucky residents certified totally and permanently disabled by the Federal Social Security Administration, a state Workers Compensation Board, the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System or the United States Railroad Retirement Board.
- Kentucky resident employees of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, declared totally and permanently disabled by a recognized authority.
- Kentucky resident veterans at least 50% disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

Seniors need only show proof of age and residency to purchase this license. Persons with disabilities listed above must first obtain a disability authorization card from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

To obtain a disability license authorization card:

If your disability is through the:

- Federal Social Security Administration: Call 1-800-772-1213 or go online to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to print the form showing your name, address, Social Security

number and date of birth. It must state that you are disabled and drawing benefits. Send form to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife (address below).

- Veteran's Administration: Contact your local VA office and request a letter that verifies you are at least 50% disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. Send letter to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- If your disability is through other state or federal agencies call 1-800-858-1549.

Once the proper documentation is processed, applicants will receive their authorization card by mail. The authorization card is not a license. It must be presented to the license seller, or the authorization number entered online, at the time of purchase.

License vendors cannot sell a disability license using an expired authorization card. Senior and Disability Combination Licenses are valid through the end of February each year. If you lose your card, contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for a replacement.

To send disability paperwork to the department:

By mail: KDFWR Disability License #1 Sportsman's Lane Frankfort, KY 40601. By FAX: (502) 564-9845.

STUDENTS

Anyone enrolled for at least six (6) months in an educational institution as a full-time student is considered a resident, and therefore eligible to purchase resident licenses and permits.

RESIDENT LANDOWNERS, TENANTS and THEIR FAMILIES

The following persons are license-exempt and are not required to purchase licenses or permits:

- Kentucky resident owners of farmlands, their spouses and dependent children hunting upon their own farmlands.
- Tenants, their spouses and dependent children hunting on farmlands where they reside and work. But, hunting licenses and permits are required if they hunt somewhere other than their own property or the property where they reside and work.

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces on permanent assignment in Kentucky are considered residents and are eligible to purchase resident licenses and permits.

Kentucky residents on leave for more than three days who carry military identification and leave papers that verify their status may hunt or fish in Kentucky without licenses or permits.

HOW TO BUY LICENSES and PERMITS

It is the hunter's responsibility to know what type of license or permit is needed.

When buying a license or permit the hunter's date of birth and Social Security number must be provided.

If you have licensing questions call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time.

IN PERSON

Licenses and permits can be purchased throughout the state at about 900 locations, including country stores, some county court clerk offices, local hunting and fishing businesses, and some chain stores that sell outdoor sporting goods.

A list of license vendors can be viewed online at fw.ky.gov.

BY PHONE

Licenses and permits can be purchased over the telephone 24 hours a day, by calling toll-free at 1-877-598-2401. All licenses and permits, except a disability license, elk lottery application and youth licenses and permits, can be purchased by telephone.

Hunters purchasing licenses and permits by phone will be charged a \$2.52 fee, and must pay with a Visa, Mastercard, or Discover card, or an e-check. Hunters will be issued an authorization number which serves as the license or permit.

If requested, a paper license or permit (except short-term licenses) will be mailed to the hunter. The paper license must be filled out and signed by the hunter.

The authorization number and a picture ID must be carried in the field

while hunting. Both the authorization number and paper license are valid for the license year.

ONLINE

Licenses and permits can also be purchased online at fw.ky.gov.

Hunters purchasing licenses or permits online must pay with a Visa, Mastercard or Discover card, or a Kentucky

Fish & Wildlife Gift Certificate. Gift Certificates are available online only at fw.ky.gov.

Hunters who buy licenses or permits online will not be mailed a paper license or permit but will receive an authorization number. The authorization number or a computer printout of the license or permit and a picture ID must be carried in the field while hunting.

Kentucky Afield
Makes hunting easier.

Ducks fly overhead at
7:52 a.m.,
8:37 a.m.
and
9:13 a.m.
Be ready.

4 issues +
Outdoor Calendar
\$10 or
2 years
for \$18
1-800-858-1549
or go to fw.ky.gov

Kentucky Afield magazine can show you the best places to find fish and wildlife, plus provide the latest Kentucky outdoor news, advice and answers from our experts, recipes for your game or fish, profiles on wildlife management areas and more!

WHICH LICENSE OR PERMIT DO I NEED?

The tables below provide a quick overview of current licensing requirements. See the rest of this section for exemptions and complete residency, li-

censing and hunter education requirements. All elk and bear hunting requirements are explained in the fall Hunting & Trapping Guide available in July.

Also: See page 7 for Senior/Disabled License eligibility.

NOTE: Licenses and permits for the species below are not required for kids under the age of 12.

KENTUCKY RESIDENTS	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-64	Ages 65 and over OR Disabled
Deer	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Statewide Deer Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Fall Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Spring Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License	Senior/Disabled License
Trapping	Annual Youth Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit† + Federal Duck Stamp	Senior/Disabled License + Federal Duck Stamp

*Included in Youth Sportsman's License

†Included in Resident Sportsman's License

NONRESIDENTS (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)	Ages 12-15	Ages 16 and over
Deer	Youth Hunting License + Youth Deer Permit	Annual Hunting License + Statewide Deer Permit
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License + Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Fall Turkey Permit
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License + Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Spring Turkey Permit
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License
Trapping	Annual Trapping License	Annual Trapping License
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp

Q: Does a nonresident who owns land in Kentucky have to buy nonresident licenses and permits?

A: Yes. **All** nonresidents must purchase nonresident licenses and permits.

Other laws still apply!

All hunters, including those who are license-exempt or eligible to purchase reduced-price licenses, must abide by all other regulations as outlined in this guide.

Q: Can more than one Youth Turkey Permit be purchased?

A: Yes. Multiple Youth Turkey Permits may be purchased, but season bag limits must be followed.

LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

	LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident	Nonresident
LICENSES	Annual Fishing	\$20	\$50
	Joint Husband/Wife Annual Fishing	\$36	Not available
	1-Day Fishing	\$7	\$10
	3-Year Fishing (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$55	Not available
	Nonresident 7-Day Fishing	Not available	\$30
	Nonresident 15-Day Fishing	Not available	\$40
	Trout Permit	\$10	
	Annual Hunting	\$20	\$140
	1-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7	\$15
	7-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$55
	Annual Youth Hunting (ages 12-15 only)	\$6	\$10
	Shooting Area License (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5	
	Annual Trapping	\$20	\$130
	Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping	\$10	Not available
	Annual Youth (ages 12-15) Trapping	\$5	Not available
COMBOS	Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$30	Not available
	Senior/Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing* (includes same license and permits as Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits.)	\$5	Not available
	Sportsman's License* (Includes combination hunting/fishing, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, state waterfowl permit and trout permit.)	\$95	Not available
	Youth (ages 12-15) Sportsman's License* (Includes youth hunting license, 2 youth deer permits and 2 youth turkey permits.)	\$30	Not available
DEER	Statewide Deer Permit (two deer)	\$35	\$120
	Youth (ages 12-15) Deer Permit (one deer)	\$10	\$15
	Additional Deer Permit (two deer)	\$15	
BIRDS	Spring Turkey Permit (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30	\$75
	Youth (ages 12-15) Turkey Permit (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10	\$15
	Fall Turkey Permit (statewide)(four turkeys)	\$30	\$75
	Migratory Bird-Waterfowl Permit	\$15	
	Federal Duck Stamp (available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com)	\$15	
	Pheasant Quota Hunt Permit (if drawn)	\$25	
ELK	Elk Lottery Application (deadline April 30; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10	
	Youth WMA Elk Lottery (deadline April 30; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10	
	Quota Bull Elk Permit (if drawn; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$100	\$550
	Quota Cow Elk Permit (if drawn; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$60	\$400
	Youth Elk Permit (if drawn; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$30	\$40
	Out-of-Zone Elk Permit (Nonresident available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$30	\$400
BEAR	Bear Permit	\$30	Not available
	Bear Chase Permit	\$30	Not available
	Youth Bear Chase Permit	\$10	Not available
AREAS	Peabody WMA User Permit	\$15	
	Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Hunter Use Permit	\$25	
	Otter Creek ORA Admission Fees (per person) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$3, annual: \$30, children under 12: free.	
	Otter Creek ORA Special Activity Fees (per person, for use of horse trails, mountain bike trails and shooting range) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$7, annual: \$70	
OTHER	Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5	
	Habitat Improvement Donation (voluntary; available at fw.ky.gov only)	Any amount	

*Peabody, LBL and Otter Creek permits, elk lottery application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit, bear permit, federal duck stamp and trapping license not included. An additional deer permit is not included with a Sportsman's License. Kentucky's license year begins March 1 and continues through the last day of February. New licenses are required annually, except for the 3-year fishing license. A 1-day or 7-day hunting license is valid only for the period shown on license. Resident and nonresident youth under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses or permits (except the elk lottery application).

OTHER HUNTING REGULATIONS

HUNTER EDUCATION

All hunters, if required to purchase a Kentucky hunting license and born on or after January 1, 1975, must carry a valid hunter education course completion card in the field while hunting.

License-exempt hunters are not required to comply with hunter education laws.

Hunter education cards obtained from other states are valid in Kentucky.

Hunter education courses are held statewide throughout the year. Course schedules are available online at fw.ky.gov or by calling 1-800-858-1549. Children cannot take the hunter education test until they are 9 years old.

APPRENTICE HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

Persons new to hunting who have not taken the hunter education course may buy a one-time temporary hunter education exemption permit for \$5 online at fw.ky.gov.

This apprentice hunting opportunity allows new hunters in Kentucky to hunt for up to one year (from date of purchase) without a hunter education card. The permit requires its holder to hunt with a licensed, adult hunter (at least 18 years old) who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult shall be in a position to take immediate control of the exempted hunter's bow or firearm at all times while hunting. This law applies even if the exempted hunter is an adult.

After the hunter education exemption permit expires, the hunter is no longer exempt and must successfully complete a hunter education course. The temporary hunter education exemption permit is valid only in Kentucky, and is

not accepted at Blue Grass Army Depot or Fort Campbell.

Resident landowners, spouses, and dependent children, tenants, their spouses and their dependent children are only hunter education exempt on property they own, or the property where they reside and work. When hunting elsewhere, they must comply with Kentucky's hunter education law.

LANDOWNER PERMISSION

A person shall not enter upon the lands of another to hunt, trap or fish without the oral or written permission of the landowner, tenant or person who has authority to grant permission. Those who fail to obtain permission are subject to arrest and prosecution.

Railroad tracks and rights of way are privately owned property and permission to hunt, trap or fish must be obtained prior to entry.

A hunter may not retrieve game from another person's land without the landowner's permission.

HUNTERS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

The department grants exemptions to hunters with certain physical disabilities.

- To use a stationary vehicle as a hunting platform.
- To hunt with a crossbow.
- Persons with qualifying physical disabilities must first have an exemption form completed and signed by a licensed physician.
- Hunting Methods Exemption forms are available online at fw.ky.gov or by calling the department at 1-800-858-1549.
- The completed exemption form

Youth supervision

Adults must accompany hunters ages 15 and under who hunt turkeys with a shotgun. The adult shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm.

serves as the hunter's exemption permit. It should not be returned to the department.

- Persons who obtain an exemption are required to have the appropriate hunting license and permits.
- Hunters must carry the signed exemption form with their hunting license and permits while in the field.

REPORT GAME LAW VIOLATIONS

Anyone may report wildlife law violators anonymously by calling

1-800-25-ALERT (1-800-252-5378). Calls come in to dispatchers, who relay the information to conservation officers in the field.

CONCEALED CARRY DEADLY WEAPONS PERMITS

Anyone who may legally possess firearms may carry firearms while hunting, but only persons with valid concealed carry deadly weapon permits may carry their firearms concealed.

CONVICTED FELONS

A person convicted of a felony is prohibited from possessing or hunting with a firearm in Kentucky. The prohibition on handguns applies to those convicted after Jan. 1, 1975. The prohibition on other firearms applies to those convicted after July 15, 1994. (See KRS 527.040 for details.)

HARVEST LOG, TELECHECK and CARCASS TAG

HARVEST LOG

All successful turkey hunters, including those who are license exempt, must fill out a harvest log for each turkey they harvest.

Information that must be written

on the harvest log includes the species of animal taken, date, county of harvest and sex of the animal.

Hunters shall record this information as soon as the bird is taken and before it is moved. A telecheck confir-

mation number must be obtained by midnight on the same day that the bird is taken and recorded on the harvest log.

A harvest log is on the back of any paper license or permit. A printable harvest log is accessible by clicking the "Hunt"

tab on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife online homepage (fw.ky.gov), choosing “More” from the dropdown menu and selecting the “Recording, Checking, Tagging and Transporting” section.

License exempt hunters, youth under 12 years of age, and those who only have a license authorization number, may create their own harvest log by writing the information on a piece of paper or note card.

Hunters must have the completed harvest log in their possession whenever afield during the current season (KAR 2:140).

TELECHECK

Telecheck is a toll-free, automated phone-in check system.

Checking your turkey takes about five minutes. Entering false information is unlawful. All harvested turkeys must be telechecked by midnight on the same

Telecheck:

**1-800-CHK-GAME
(1-800-245-4263)**

day that they are taken. All youth hunters must use their social security number when telechecking a turkey.

Additionally, hunters may check in online at fw.ky.gov.

Telecheck is in service 24 hours a day while hunting seasons are open. Listen to each question carefully and provide the requested information using the keypad on any touch tone phone.

Hunters will be asked:

- Their Social Security number.
- The code for the county in which the turkey was taken.
- Species and sex of the animal.
- Type of hunting equipment used.

- If the caller is a landowner.
- Private or public land.
- Type of license used.

Once the harvest information has been entered correctly, the caller will be asked to hold while the system submits the survey information. Then the hunter will be given a confirmation number which is proof that the harvested turkey was legally reported. This number must be recorded on the hunter's log and retained throughout the season.

CARCASS TAGS

- Must be attached to any harvested turkey that leaves the hunter's possession.
- Meat processors and taxidermists are prohibited by law from accepting any harvested turkey or parts of a harvested turkey without a carcass tag attached.
- Must include hunter's name, phone number and telecheck confirmation number.

KENTUCKY COUNTY CODE NUMBERS FOR TELECHECK

001	Adair	025	Clark	049	Harrison	073	McCracken	097	Perry
002	Allen	026	Clay	050	Hart	074	McCreary	098	Pike
003	Anderson	027	Clinton	051	Henderson	075	McLean	099	Powell
004	Ballard	028	Crittenden	052	Henry	076	Madison	100	Pulaski
005	Barren	029	Cumberland	053	Hickman	077	Magoffin	101	Robertson
006	Bath	030	Daviess	054	Hopkins	078	Marion	102	Rockcastle
007	Bell	031	Edmonson	055	Jackson	079	Marshall	103	Rowan
008	Boone	032	Elliott	056	Jefferson	080	Martin	104	Russell
009	Bourbon	033	Estill	057	Jessamine	081	Mason	105	Scott
010	Boyd	034	Fayette	058	Johnson	082	Meade	106	Shelby
011	Boyle	035	Fleming	059	Kenton	083	Menifee	107	Simpson
012	Bracken	036	Floyd	060	Knott	084	Mercer	108	Spencer
013	Breathitt	037	Franklin	061	Knox	085	Metcalf	109	Taylor
014	Breckinridge	038	Fulton	062	LaRue	086	Monroe	110	Todd
015	Bullitt	039	Gallatin	063	Laurel	087	Montgomery	111	Trigg
016	Butler	040	Garrard	064	Lawrence	088	Morgan	112	Trimble
017	Caldwell	041	Grant	065	Lee	089	Muhlenberg	113	Union
018	Calloway	042	Graves	066	Leslie	090	Nelson	114	Warren
019	Campbell	043	Grayson	067	Letcher	091	Nicholas	115	Washington
020	Carlisle	044	Green	068	Lewis	092	Ohio	116	Wayne
021	Carroll	045	Greenup	069	Lincoln	093	Oldham	117	Webster
022	Carter	046	Hancock	070	Livingston	094	Owen	118	Whitley
023	Casey	047	Hardin	071	Logan	095	Owsley	119	Wolfe
024	Christian	048	Harlan	072	Lyon	096	Pendleton	120	Woodford